

XXII TecMUN Jr.

**LEAGUE OF ARAB
STATES**

LAS

“The best way to predict the future is to create it”

—Peter Drucker

Dear delegates:

First of all, I would like to thank you for being here and for giving you the opportunity to experience TecMUN. I hope we can share with you our love for this model and our desire to make things happen instead of letting them happen. TecMUN has taught me a lot about life, society, culture, politics, and even geography; but most importantly, about myself. I hope that after the model, you can also be able to say this.

These three days may not represent a change for the world. These days may not eradicate hunger, diseases or wars. For the world, these three days will be as any other normal day. Nevertheless, I hope they will have an enormous impact in your life. I hope they will ignite the spark of hope and initiative we all young people should have.

When we think about the most urgent issues in the world, we may think of inequality, genocide, hunger, murder, illiteracy, diseases, wars, weapons, slavery and more. However, I think there is a main cause for all that is happening. The world has a big, powerful and undeniable enemy. Its name is indifference. Many people watch the news and think that an issue or conflict is taking place far away and that it will not have an impact in their lives. They think they are somehow outside of the problem. They just think of themselves or the people they know. They don't realize the suffering and misery that exist in our world. Everyday, we become more and more careless. If we do not participate and take action, no one else will. We cannot continue hiding and pretending there is nothing to do. As I said, TecMUN may not directly fight against wars, slavery or inequality; but it will surely fight against indifference.

During the model you will have an incredible opportunity. You will be able to speak for a country, not only in name or representation of their government; you will be able to speak for the religion, politics, culture, language, traditions, children, women and men of a country. You will be their voice. You will give them the power to be heard. Speak for them, represent them and make them proud.

It may happen to you, that the country you are representing it's totally different from Mexico, their culture may seem strange to you and you may not agree in every aspect of their politics. Still, always remember that there are amazing cultures, which have different views of the world we live in. TecMUN gives us the opportunity to explore and learn about countries that are thousands and thousands

of kilometers away from us. TecMUN gives us the opportunity to know that we are not outside the problems and that we should participate and get involved.

At the end of these three days, our international forums will be classrooms and conference rooms again. We; presidents, moderators, delegates; will be students again. The floor will be closed; but delegate, don't close the floor for your dreams, for your ideas, for your aspirations and for your will to really change the world. Don't let your proposals to be just words written in a paper. You have the power to turn those words into actions. You have the power to turn those actions into hope and change.

It may sound cliché that we have the power to change the world. However, it is indeed true that we must not be scared to raise our voice. They may say we are just young people playing and pretending to be adults saving the world. They may say we are dreamers; but I say we are believers. I say we have courage and determination. I say we are powerful.

Finally, I just want to ask you to trust in yourself, to share your ideas; to meet people that think in the same way or maybe really different from you; to be conscious and aware; and most importantly to be believe in us, believe that people united can make a difference; because that is what the world needs.

Joana Karime Novia Ibarra
President of the League of Arab States for the XXII TecMUN Jr.

Topic A: Intervention of Foreign Radical Groups Such as Hezbollah in Internal Conflicts Affecting the Sovereignty of States and the Rapid Solution of These Conflicts with Special Focus in Syria.

Radical groups are one of the most important factors in the rise of violence that has been taking place within the Arab region. After the “Arab Spring” occurred in the region in 2010, an event, which included protests, armed rebellions, and the end of various dictatorial regimes, Arab countries have sought for a total renovation in their political, social and economic systems. The aforementioned countries have accomplished to bring down dictatorial leaders that have been in the power within their territories for decades. Nevertheless, they have not yet seen the renewal and benefits they demanded. Radical groups have been occupying the place previously owned by regimes, trying to incorporate their own interpretation and ideology of Islam; by these means, they threaten the transition of Arab Spring countries into democracies.

On the other hand, the involvement of radical groups has been present in internal conflicts taking place in Member States. Hezbollah’s participation in the Syrian Armed conflict has turned into an issue of great importance for the League of Arab States (Hereinafter referred to as *League*) taking in consideration and condemning the amount of Syrian victims the issue has caused.

This paper addresses, in first place: the connection between Hezbollah and the Syrian government; which is a matter that has not only been condemned by the League, but also internationally; such events have turned Syria’s armed conflict more complex. The Lebanese group has not only given political and economic support to the regime, but has also confronted the opposition and turned the internal conflict into an international matter by seeking the cooperation of Iran. Secondly: the paper reviews the damages caused by the previously mentioned

groups to Member States seeking a political transition towards a more representative form of government.

Hezbollah is a Shi'a Islamist militant and political group based in Lebanon and founded in 1985. Considered more powerful than the Lebanese army, it is seen as a resistance movement throughout the Arab world. Its main goal is to maintain resistance against Israel, Sunni extremists and Western influence. This organization has grown throughout the years, starting with a small militia until having seats in the Lebanese government programs for social development, plus a large scale of military fighters beyond Lebanon's borders.

Hezbollah was first created to offer resistance to the Israeli occupation, its leaders were followers of Ayatollah Khomeini, and its forces were trained by a contingent of 1,500 Iranian revolutionary guards.

Hezbollah's manifesto of 1985 listed their objectives as the expulsion of "the Americans, the French and their allies definitely from Lebanon, putting an end to any colonialist entity on our land". Hezbollah's military branch, also known as "the Jihad Council" or "Islamic Resistance", also sponsors other militant groups including the "Organization of the Oppressed" and the "Revolutionary Justice Organization". The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 called for the disarmament of the militia with the "Taif Agreement" at the end of the Lebanese Civil War. Despite the Security Council's efforts to disarm the Lebanese group, Hezbollah protested against the resolution along with their supporters, the Shia groups, avoiding, by doing so, their disarmament. Nevertheless, the majority of the Christians and Sunni groups strongly support the disarmament of the radical group.

Syria and Hezbollah's connection already existed before the armed conflict started back in March, 2011. Along with Iran, Iraq and the Shia groups, Hezbollah and Syria are part of the "Axis of Resistance" (hereinafter, *Axis*): an alliance between the aforementioned parties in order to cooperate and work together not only politically and economically but also in military matters.

To understand the causes of the deep involvement the Lebanese group has had along the conflict since 2011, one must understand the relation that existed between Syria, Iran and the radical group Hezbollah.

According to reports by Israel, for more than 20 years the Axis has been cooperating by providing both, heavy and light weapons, as well as means of transportation for the mentioned artillery. These weapons are provided by Iran, supporting the resistance against Israel and also spreading the message of their responsibility to spread Islam and to export Islamic revolutionary principles as stated in the Iranian Constitution:

"Iran's Army and Revolutionary Guard will be responsible not only for guarding and preserving the frontiers of the country, but also for fulfilling the ideological mission of jihad in God's way; that is, extending the sovereignty of God's law throughout the world." (Horowitz, Oct. 12, 2010)

"The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based upon the rejection of all forms of domination" and "non-alignment with respect to the hegemonist superpowers." It highlights Iran's "struggle for liberation for all deprived and oppressed people," the "negations of all forms of oppression" and "the complete elimination of imperialism and the prevention of foreign influence." (Oct. 12, 2012)

Nevertheless, the Iran constitution also...

“Considers the attainment of independence, freedom, and rule of justice and truth to be the right of all people of the world.”
Therefore, while Iran will “scrupulously refrain from all forms of interference in the internal affairs of other nations, it supports the just struggles of the oppressed against the tyrants in every corner of the globe.” (Oct. 12, 2010)

Taking Iran's claims in consideration, Richard Horowitz, former investigator for the Israel Defense Forces, states that:

“While Iran may claim that it scrupulously refrains from interference in the internal affairs of others, actions such as arms shipments to Hamas and Hezbollah indicate Iran's intention to influence and even control regional geo-strategic developments. By proxy therefore, its arms shipments turned Iran into a regional combatant.” (Oct. 12, 2010)

In addition of the political message sent via the cooperation with the Axis, Iran finds in Syria an opportunity to be present political, social and economically, within the Levant: region that encompasses the island of Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and southern Turkey.

Although it is well known that the involvement in Syria is causing Hezbollah to lose Lebanese supporters arguing the situation is threatening “security and stability within the country”, Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese organization stated at a Shiite ceremony in Beirut that their fighters “are present on Syrian soil” and “as long as the reasons remain, our presence there will

remain.” (Nov. 14, 2013) Nasrallah firmly declared Hezbollah’s fighters will not leave the country as “enemy states” are asking in order to cooperate in diplomatic negotiations. Aware of the loss, not only economic, but also in terms of casualties that the group has suffered (from fighters to leaders), the benefits that Hezbollah will have as a result of the Syrian coalition must be reviewed.

Taking in consideration the military support and weaponry received from Iran on caravans –that from Iran go through Syria and end in warehouses and underground bunkers in Lebanon– one of Hezbollah’s motivation to take action in the Syrian armed conflict is to secure the lines of communication between Lebanon and Iran; as well as to ensure that the opposition would not intercept the loads. Hezbollah involves itself in the Syrian armed conflict by supporting President Bashar al-Assad's regime. Due to logistic, transportation and illegal exportation of weapons, Hezbollah could not permit the overthrow of a regime that has helped and been the mean for the accomplishment of illicit actions, *pro* Hezbollah’s cause.

Furthermore, Hezbollah is willing to strengthen the Axis relations and to maintain the support they received from Syria; this support includes the supply of warehouses and training camps in the Syrian territory. Mentioned camps were near chemical weapons depots; this fact triggered the supposition that the radical group is able to obtain material for the construction of these weapons and that it has even contributed in the development of chemical weapons used against the opposition in violent and devastating confrontations.

One of Hezbollah’s greatest motivations is to reaffirm its compromise to fight against Sunni Extremist groups; to stop the spread of the sect in Syria and therefore, to prevent Lebanon to gain a Sunni majority.

Despite the benefits Hezbollah will receive as a result of their support in the Syrian armed conflict, the deepening involvement of the Lebanese group has had a bigger impact on President Bashar al-Assad's regime; enabling the regime “to regain control of rebel-held areas in central Syria” and to “improve the effectiveness of pro-regime forces” (Sullivan, 4) The intervention of Hezbollah started as a regime advisor in terms of strategy but it dramatically increased in 2013 when the Hezbollah militia confronted the opposition alongside Syrian forces. Hezbollah’s presence has contributed by planning and conducting operations to regain territory previously taken by the opposition: Homs, Aleppo, and Damascus; as well as the significant victory for the regime in al-Qusayr.

Hezbollah has also offered light infantry, which contrary to the weaponry owned by the Syrian militia, is able to enter urban areas, displace and kill thousands of Syrians, and regain territory lost against the opposition. Furthermore, Syria’s militia was not disciplined, nor powerful enough to regain important areas such as Damascus; Hezbollah offered discipline, strategy, weapons and most importantly, leadership to a previously weak Syrian militia. According to the Middle East Security Report 19, published by The Institute for the Study of War, an Hezbollah fighter described the effect Hezbollah had in the pro-regime militia: “When we first started helping the Syrians, it was true they had big problems with their army...they had no skill, no discipline and no leadership. Now, the men they have left have learned a lot and are very serious fighters. They’ve become more like Hezbollah.” (April, 2014)

The participation of the Lebanese group, Hezbollah, in the Syrian armed conflict in 2013:

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			April 30: Nasrallah acknowledges HB involvement in Syria for the first time.	May 9: Nasrallah reiterates support for Assad. May 25: Nasrallah: "Syria is the backbone of Hezbollah." May 26: Nasrallah acknowledges HB involvement in Syria.	June 17: LH Commander describes Hezbollah role in Aleppo.		August 2: Nasrallah: Shore up Hezbollah support.	September 23: Nasrallah denies shipment of CW to Lebanon.		November 25: LH Commander makes statement about casualties in Damascus.	
JAN 2013	FEB 2013	MAR 2013	APR 2013	MAY 2013	JUN 2013	JUL 2013	AUG 2013	SEPT 2013	OCT 2013	NOV 2013	DEC 2013
	February 13: Hassan Shateri, IRGCQF, killed in Syria.			May 19: Hezbollah launches clearing operations in Qusayr.	June 5: Hezbollah launches first assault on Qusayr; the same day Qusayr falls to the regime. June 10: Operation Northern Storm June 11: Hermel residents retaliate in Ansar June 29: Regime launches offensive to regain last parts of Homs	July 9: VBIED in Dahiyeh July 21: Ayman Said Tahini, LH Commander (led AFAB Battalion) buried.	August 15: VBIED in Beirut August 19: Hossam Ali al-Nasr, rumored Senior Commander, killed. August 21: CW attack		August 15: LH gains control of neighborhoods in Damascus	November 17: Offensive in Qalamoun November 19: Iranian embassy double suicide bombing claimed by Abdullah Azzam brigades November 29: Wifaq Sharafeddine, LH Commander, killed.	December 8: Ali Hussein Bazzi, LH Commander, killed.
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Timeline of Hezbollah statements and engagements.
Hezbollah in Syria. Middle East Security Report 19.
http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Hezbollah_Sullivan_FINAL.pdf

On the other hand, radical groups are present in nations such as Tunisia and Egypt. These countries have accomplished the overthrow of the previous dictatorial regime and are seeking for a transition into a democratic and inclusive country. Nevertheless, radical groups have taken advantage of the crisis caused by the “Arab Spring” events. Therefore, the involvement of these radical groups has provoked crisis, unemployment, instability, corruption and conditions similar to those that the opposition rejected and fought for overthrowing.

Tunisia was the first country where the events commonly known as “Arab Spring” started. The government has prohibited the looking of information by denying the use of Internet and media. A country which coexisted with political oppression, and later ended up with massive protests that turned into gargantuan, violent riots, gave birth to a socio-economic chaos and provoked many deaths. The economic situation in this country after the “Arab Spring” was deplorable. As

stated by the College of Wooster, Tunisia is now “facing times of political and economic instability, dealing with corruption, high prices, unemployment, political oppression and poverty.” (Feb. 20, 2012)

- Impact on unemployment and on inflation rate

Approximately 13% of the people who are in the labor force are currently unemployed; this keeps growing day by day. There’s frustration among Tunisians about the unequal distribution of wealth between the already developed and the developing areas. Also, it has repercussions in the distribution of job opportunities.

- Government spending and general debt

As a consequence of the protests, the government expenditures increased (by USD\$746 million), altering the fiscal balance by US\$489million. The gross national savings decreased by 2% in one year, external debt grew by \$4 billion and the industrial production for 2011 registered a 0% growth.

According to Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (*IMF*), “the government should change its fiscal policies so it would generate funds for business development, infrastructure, education and health it is of primary importance for the private sector to collaborate with the government to promote investment and competitiveness and to reduce the level of corruption that grew from 4.3 in 2012 to 3.8 in 2011 (the ten scale indicates the following: 10-very clean, 0-highly corrupt). The *IMF* is currently helping Tunisia to strengthen the financial sector, one of the Tunisia’s economic strategic initiatives.”

Ever since the revolution in Egypt, the country that was once a thriving tourist destination has now become more of a city in the headlines. Corruption, unemployment and a significant economic downturn; many Egyptian businessmen have moved into Europe and other countries for fear that they might be brought up

on corruption charges. The fear caused by the instability after the overthrow of the regime and the political instability, caused mainly by radical groups, significantly reduced market production, and therefore, economical instability. Egyptians fought against repression and violence by the government asking for the president to leave the country; in exchange, they received even more violence by the police with the help of the ruling National Democratic Party. The government shut down the Internet and mobile services to stop any communications with the “outside world”. Mubarak, with the help of Omar Suleiman, the vice president, installed a new cabinet; conceding that he wouldn’t run again for president –nor would his son, Gamal– after he finished his term in September 2011, he failed to appease the Egyptian people’s demands. On February 11 came the “Friday of departure”, Mubarak was finally forced to resign. This event had extreme significance to Egypt, not only because of the change in the corrupted government, but also because of the potential success that existed in the Egyptian economy. Unfortunately, after the overthrow, the country has seen nothing but instability; radical groups and former members of the army are seeking for power within the territory.

The “Arab Spring”, the pro-democratic uprisings and revolutionary type demonstrations occurring in the Arab world; one of the most affected countries is Libya, for it has caused revolutions, civil uprisings and civil wars.

Parallel to Libya, Yemen was one of the main countries that were empowered by the “Arab Spring” movement. The riots demanding the resignation of president Ali Abdullah Saleh started in January, 2011. After 33 years at the helm of the government, the president announced that he would not seek the re-election. However, Yemen’s security forces and Saleh supporters launched a crackdown for the protests ,which left between 200 and 2000 deaths.

After 4 months since the conflict started, the General People's Congress agreed to cooperate with the Gulf Cooperation Council to hand over the power, but Mr. Saleh refused to sign the deal. The governor left the country for several months due serious injuries caused by a bombing. He returned in September 2011 and signed his resignation in November of the same year.

Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi assumed the power in February 2012, accepting that his government will only last for 2 years. His government had difficulties fighting on the one hand, against poverty and malnutrition of Yemen's people, and on the other hand, some insurgency movements lead by Al-Qaeda and Zaidi Shia rebels.

As reviewed in this paper, actions for the limitation of power of radical groups must be pursued. Member States need to be able to make their own decisions and to finally achieve sovereignty. The League will keep working towards the accomplishment of the aforementioned sovereignty.

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Topic B: Measures to Ensure Civilian's Security and to Reduce Tension in Iraq Caused by Confrontations Between the Iraqi Government and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

For the League of Arab States (Hereinafter, *League*) one of the most urgent issues in the agenda is the armed conflict that has been taking place in Iraq between the Shiite government, in charge of the Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and the Sunni group “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant”, or “Islamic State in Iraq and Syria” (Hereinafter, *ISIS*) for almost 3 years. Despite the longevity of this sectarian conflict, the issue turned into an international matter in June 2014 when one of the most impressive attacks by an opposition group took place in Mosul, Iraq; displacing thousands of people, threatening the security of the state and violating human rights among the Iraqi society.

The sectarian conflict and division in Islam between Sunnis and Shias has existed among Muslims since 632 A.D. The conflict has its origins on the different opinions that Muslims had about who should succeed the prophet Muhammad after his death. This conflict relies in politics and power rather than in religion.

Those Muslims who thought the successor should be a descendant of Muhammad formed the Shia group. And those who claimed that any devout follower of Muhammad could be his successor became part of the Sunni group.

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum On Religion and Public Life, by 2010 the world's Muslim population was of 1.6 billion people; from which 87 to 90% are Sunni and 10 to 13% represent the Shia population. Although the majority of the Muslims are Sunni, there are some countries in which the Shia sect has obtained political power, and Iraq is one of these countries.

Sunni and Shia communities in Iraq shared territory and lived in relative peace alongside each other for centuries. It was after the US-led invasion that took place in 2003 that the sectarian conflict exploded for the first time during the 21st century. According to Ishaan Tharoor, events that caused the detonation of the crisis were conflicts within the regions as well as foreign interventions in Iraq.

Saddam Hussein's Iraq was accused of the development of weapons of mass destruction and was exhorted by various United Nations (Hereinafter, *UN*) Resolutions to "provide immediate, unconditional, and unrestricted access to the United Nations Monitoring" (UN Security Council Resolution 1441, Nov. 8, 2002) to all their weapons of mass destruction programs. The Bush administration in the United States of America (Hereinafter, *United States*) urged the UN to give authorization for an armed intervention in the country, highlighting "the threat Iraq's non-compliance with Council resolutions and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles poses to international peace and security" (UN Security Council Resolution 1441). Afterwards, on April 2009, United States' forces officially occupied Baghdad. Hussein stood "firm and not abide by U.S. demands" (Jakobsen) which eventually caused the overthrow of the Iraqi dictator.

Even though Hussein's regime was oppressive and accused of war crimes, sectarian problems did not represent a real threat for the political and social stability of the country during his time in charge (1979-2003). After the overthrow and eventual execution of the dictator, Shiite Iraqi politicians, selected by the United States for the assumption of power, did not seek for an inclusive form of government. After decades of repression, Shiite groups sought for the union and expansion of Shia groups within the country and denied the inclusion of Sunni groups.

The discontent raised and “al-Qaeda in Iraq” (Hereinafter, *AQI*), a branch of the terrorist group al-Qaeda, originated. According to the Counterterrorism Calendar, AQI uses tactics such as “vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices” (VBIEDs), suicide bombers, and executions of hostages by beheading –among other means– as an attempt to pressure countries and foreign companies to leave Iraq. Furthermore, they also attempt to push Iraqis to stop supporting the United States and the Iraqi Government, and attract additional cadre to its ranks.” In 2013, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant was formed as a Sunni jihadist group that grew from al-Qaeda.

ISIS, a group that claims itself as State rather than a terrorist group, has a clear objective: the creation of a caliphate that will be ruled under the Sharia Law and will include Syria and Iraq. The concrete magnitude of ISIS is unclear. Nevertheless, it is known that ISIS is formed by thousands of Iraqi and Arab fighters. The group has even claimed that British, French, German and even American fighters are present in their militia. ISIS has been catalogued as one of the most powerful terrorist groups –in terms of money and fighters– by the United States National Counterterrorism Center due to the extreme popularity it has among the young and revolutionary Sunni population. For these young jihadist fighters, ISIS is more attractive than al-Qaeda because ISIS is known as the most brutal terrorist group, and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, is a battlefield commander and tactician, unlike al-Qaeda’s leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, who is an Islamic theologian.

Furthermore, Sunni civilians have also joined ISIS militia, claiming they rather be part of the group than continue living under the Maliki’s sectarian, discriminatory, and oppressive form of government against the Sunni minority in the country.

ISIS military success started in March 2013 when they took control of Raqqa, a Syrian city. Ever since, ISIS has had a tremendous success by taking over cities as Ramandi and cities near the borders with Syria and Turkey. Tension between Iraq's Sunni minority and Shia-led government exploded in the whole territory when ISIS took control of Fallujah. However, the event that triggered the possibility of a civil war and transformed the conflict into an international issue was ISIS taking over Mosul on June, 2014.

The group took Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, on June 2014. This attack was determining, not only for countries to turn their attention towards the Middle East, wondering whether the issue might affect other states, and if intervention would be necessary or not, but also for the economic situation of ISIS. According to the United States: ISIS's victory in Mosul "may also have made ISIS the most cash-rich militant group in the world". (Aug. 2014) According to Prof. Peter Neumann: before the events occurred in Mosul, ISIS assets were worth \$900 m (£500m) and increased after Mosul to about \$2bn (£1.18bn). The reason of the huge increase of ISIS assets is the robbery of the Mosul's Iraq's Central Bank.

The power of ISIS increased when Sunni civilians stated that confrontations were a small price people would have to pay to finally have equality and an inclusive government. ISIS has been...

"exploiting Sunni resentments against the government, and by linking up with local and national Sunni armed groups. [...] ISIS is making people there more likely to support ISIS's takeover, more likely to resist any efforts by the Iraqi army to retake the city, and less likely to help the army uproot ISIS." (Fisher)

By this means, ISIS is trying to trigger a civil war by highlighting to the Sunni minority the better conditions of life they would have if the Caliphate succeeded. The Mosul ISIS offensive caused more than 500,000 people to flee Mosul after the sanguinary attack to the city. Meanwhile, southern cities were also being attacked, especially those with a Shia majority. Shia meetings have been attacked causing the deaths of hundreds of people and thousands were displaced.

After the major victory in Mosul, cities like Tikrit have been attacked. The rebel group has set on fire Shia monuments as well as religious important and meaningful places for the Shiite population. According to Nikolay Mladenov, special representative of the UN General Secretary for Iraq, the issue has turned into a human rights tragedy. If the problem is not stopped; ISIS may continue with the brutal execution of hundreds of the Shiite population and may be accused of genocide.

Moreover, Nikolay Mladenov calls for international help, arguing that cities taken by ISIS are surviving in desperate conditions. He highlights that "lifesaving humanitarian assistance" is urgent for towns as Amerli. Which has been sited for more than two months.

ISIS has been accused of committing atrocities within the territory that is now controlled by the rebel group, which includes cities in Iraq and Syria. These accusations have been confirmed rather than denied by the rebel group, via the international spreading of their message, declaring a psychological war to the Iraqi army by posting pictures and even videos that show ISIS fighters brutally torturing and executing Shiite masses. The motivation for the group is the instauration of a caliphate controlling Syria and Iraq under the Sunni power. After the events occurred in Mosul, ISIS leader claimed himself a caliph.

Even though international cooperation is necessary, western powers are still deliberating whether their army will enter Syria or not. The United States and the United Kingdom (Hereinafter, *UK*) are perfectly aware that ISIS represents a threat to the dictatorial regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria. “Leaders in Washington and London are adamant they will not collaborate with the regime of Bashar al-Assad in tackling their common enemy.” (Ackerman). Nevertheless, both nations agree that the most important thing to do in the Middle East is to avert potential genocide; therefore, the Pentagon “insisted that it had yet to decide on whether to expand the US air war into Syria.” (Ackerman)

American forces had not formally entered the country until ISIS forces responded to American threats about sending military support to Malikis’ government by the execution of the American journalist and ISIS hostage, James Foley. Ever since, the Obama administration has announce that at least 93 American airstrikes have been present in the territory controlled by ISIS within Iraq and Syria, which is now larger than the UK and home of more than 4 million people.

The UK is in a similar dilemma. Sir Gerald Howarth, former UK defense minister, stated that a bombing campaign by the UK might be possible. Despite the urgency of the country to intervene in the Iraqi conflict, collaborations with the Assad regime are condemned. Nevertheless, Philip Hammond, British Foreign Secretary, stated that “engaging in a dialogue with the Assad regime would not advance the cause that we are all advocating here,” (Aug. 22, 2014) and that it is necessary to align against a common enemy; always keeping in mind that this action would not mean support to the Syrian dictator.

With two western powers, besides the Maliki's administration, fighting against one of the most powerful rebel groups in the world, civilians are in extreme danger. Reports of the ISIS claim that they carry out mass executions, terrorize civilians that live under their control by placing heads on fences, and imposing religious restrictions. According to regional authorities, 1,922 is the number of people whose deaths have been confirmed just in June. From which 1,392 were civilians, including women and children. Withal, the number of civilians wounded in a 30-day term was 2,610. At least 1,500 insurgents have been liberated and have joined ISIS after the attack to at least 3 high profile jails.

Reports suggest that more than 100,000 Christians have fled Mosul. Christians in Mosul are punished with death and, according to recent reports, there are not Christians left in Mosul. Christians have been executed and those who managed to escape are living under precarious conditions in the outside-ISIS-controlled cities.

Besides the direct executions of ISIS, there are indirect ways in which the country is affecting the population. The Dam of Mosul is the source of water for more than 500,000 civilians and the largest dam in Iraq. 500,000 might die if the dam stops working under the instructions of ISIS. The security of the dam is one of the main issues the government is trying to achieve. Nevertheless, in order to achieve it, they must recuperate control over the largest city in hand of the rebel group.

The power of ISIS increases every day. According to Janine Davidson, of the Council of Foreign Relations, ISIS receives a daily revenue of the gas and oil fields the rebels have taken control of. It is the first extremist organization in accomplishing the control of territory, primary resources, and the manufacturing benefits of these resources, altogether.

Having deeply analyzed ISIS's outreach, the League urges for international and member states cooperation to accomplish the security of civilians, as well as to prevent the conflict from turning into genocide. The situation in Iraq has presented war crimes deeply condemned by the international law. The League's main goal is to cease fire and arrive to a solution that is just for both parties. Nevertheless, if diplomatic efforts fail, the League is willing to take the necessary actions in order to achieve peace, and most of all, secure the integrity and protection of the human rights of both, the Syrian and Iraqi population.



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